



PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

Marilyn Davenport, MBA
Public Information Officer
phone: (352) 516-4145
email: mdavenport@ci.leesburg.fl.us

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LEESBURG HIRES MUSEUM CURATOR/SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

The City of Leesburg recently hired Rick Reed as curator of the Leesburg Heritage Museum and special events coordinator. Mr. Reed began working for the city on November 10, 2003 and his primary responsibilities consist of collecting, displaying, organizing and categorizing artifacts and historical information pertinent to Leesburg.

For more than eight years, Mr. Reed was a full time writer for *The Daily Commercial*, covering local government, the Lake County School Board, local religion and feature writing, in addition to two weekly columns and the "Reminisce" page. He is still writing "Reflections", the devotional column on the Religion page and "Reminisce", along with an occasional sports story.

A resident of Lake County since 1991, Mr. Reed's interest in the local history has been evidenced through numerous articles he has written for several local publications, which led him to create the "Reminisce" page for *The Daily Commercial* in October 1998. Mr. Reed was recognized by the Florida Historical Society by winning the 2002 Hampton Dunn Golden Quill Award for historical writing.

In addition to the overall operation of the museum, City Manager Ron Stock wants the Mote-Morris House to be more available for the public to tour. Mr. Reed also hopes to initiate historical programs and produce historical materials and brochures about Leesburg.

Reed said, "This is a dream job." He added "I love the idea of being surrounded and immersed in Leesburg's colorful history on a full time basis." He has spent plenty of time in this museum researching for articles and looks forward to carrying on its preservation.

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